

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

5	<i>In re</i> Application of Paula S. Newman	)	
		)	Group Art Unit: 2144
	Serial No. 09/732,023	)	
		)	Examiner:
	Filed: December 8, 2000	)	Tammy T. Nguyen
10		)	
	For: Method And System For Mail Folder Displays	)	

**REPLY BRIEF**

15 Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY BRIEF ON BEHALF OF PAULA S. NEWMAN:**

20 Appellant appeals from the final Office action mailed April 18, 2007, in  
which currently-pending Claims 1-35 stand finally rejected. Appellant filed a  
Notice of Appeal on July 18, 2007 and an Appeal Brief on September 18, 2007.  
An Examiner's Answer was mailed on December 31, 2007. This Reply Brief is  
submitted in response to the Examiner's Answer, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §  
25 41.41(a)(1).

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**1. STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Rejected Claims 1-35 are pending and are the subject of this Reply Brief. The claims involved in this appeal are included in the Claims Appendix, Section 4.

**2. GROUNDS FOR REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**

**A. Issue I**

Whether Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 12, 14-17, 20, 22-28, 30-33, and 35 stand  
5 properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No.  
6,832,244, issued to Raghunandan in view of Bill Dyszel, Microsoft Outlook  
2000 For Windows For Dummies, pp. 84-85, 156, and 158, Wiley Publishing,  
Inc. 1999 (“Dyszel”).

**B. Issue II**

10 Whether Claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 18, 19, 21, 29, and 34 stand properly  
rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raghunandan in  
view of Dyszel, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,170,011, issued to Macleod  
Beck et al. (“Macleod Beck”).

### 3. CLARIFYING ARGUMENTS

This Reply Brief clarifies our remarks in rebuttal to the Examiner's Answer.

5           **A.     U.S. Patent No. 6,832,244 ("Raghunandan") and Microsoft Outlook 2000 For Windows For Dummies ("Dyszel")**

**1.   Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 23, 26-28, and 30 (Group I)**

Applicant continues to assert that the Raghunandan and Dyszel references are being improperly combined, and the combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all the limitations of Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 23, 26-28, and 30.

10           Raghunandan teaches a system for analyzing e-mail content based on selected parameters and then displaying the email as graphical images (Col. 6, lines 61-65; Col. 7, lines 48-50). Dyszel teaches a system to group and display Outlook items, including e-mail, via categories as a way to manage the items (pages 84, 85, 156, and 158).

15           One of ordinary skill in the art would not find a suggestion or motivation to combine Raghunandan with Dyszel, which include incompatible teachings. Raghunandan teaches identifying and organizing e-mail messages based on priority (Col. 1, lines 45-49), whereas Dyszel superficially teaches grouping e-mail through screen layout illustrations that help a user to find items based on  
20   interest (page 158). Additionally, Raghunandan teaches a system that increases in effectiveness as the number of parameters to identify e-mails is increased (Col. 1, lines 66-67; Col. 7, lines 15-35). Dyszel, however, teaches away from Raghunandan by teaching that grouping by too many categories will make using the list more difficult (page 85). Finally, Raghunandan teaches a system to view  
25   as many e-mails on screen as possible to avoid time spent selecting and scrolling through messages (Col. 2, lines 3-5), while Dyszel teaches a system that may require scrolling to view the information sought (page 156). Therefore, the Raghunandan and Dyszel references teach away from each other and should not be combined.

Further, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to create a reasonable expectation of success. Raghunandan teaches identifying or prioritizing e-mails based on selected parameters and displaying those parameters as graphical images. In contrast, Dyszel teaches managing e-mail messages by grouping them by categories, but without graphical images. In particular, Dyszel teaches organizing e-mails by categories that can require scrolling to see information of interest (page 156). Raghunandan, though, teaches displaying *all* e-mails as graphical symbols on one screen (Col. 9, lines 9-11). Combining the teachings of Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel would thus provide e-mail organized by categories that are then displayed in graphical form based on priority, which could require scrolling to see all e-mails in the screen. However, having to scroll graphical images may lead to delay in identifying and responding to important e-mails, contrary to Raghunandan. As a result, the combination of Raghunandan and Dyszel would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the combined process should be carried out or that the combined process would have a likelihood of success.

Moreover, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to teach each and every claim limitation. Claim 1 recites specifying a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned, specifying a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail messages are assigned, and specifying a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, displaying each of the e-mail messages in accordance with the display specification, using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed. Claim 1 defines an e-mail display operating over three-dimensions that allows multiple layers of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensioning when adapted to multiple user

displays. Thus, display-specific arrangement of e-mails by category, display, and layout are possible.

In contrast, Raghunandan teaches displaying e-mail messages as graphical images. The graphical image display in Raghunandan is one-dimensional as e-mails are grouped according to parameters parsed from the header and body of the e-mail. As more parameters are added, the system, as taught by Raghunandan, becomes more effective due to increasing the number of buttons on a screen. Adding more screens will not result in additional granularity of information displayed, but will only display even more buttons. Likewise, Dyszel teaches a one-dimensional e-mail display, in which e-mail is organized and displayed based on categories alone. Introducing greater granularity into the one-dimensional display makes the system taught by Dyszel more difficult to use. Additional user displays will not add more granularity of information displayed. Therefore, Raghunandan and Dyszel alone, and in combination, teach a one-dimensional e-mail display that does not increase in granularity with the addition of more displays, as defined in Claim 1.

Nor would modifying the teachings of Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel be predictable to one skilled in the art. Raghunandan teaches displaying e-mails as graphical images, while Dyszel teaches selection of categories and placing messages into these categories. Claim 1's three-dimensional e-mail display of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensions would not be predictable to one skilled in the art, which would require looking beyond one-dimensional e-mail displays, as taught and suggested by the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination.

Accordingly, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to teach each and every limitation and a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been shown with respect to Claim 1. Claims 2, 5, 7, 23 and 26-30 are dependent on Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations stated therein. As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and 2, 5, 7, 23 and 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

**2. Claims 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 31-33, and 35  
(Group II)**

Applicant continues to assert that the Raghunandan and Dyszel references  
5 are being improperly combined, and the combination fails to disclose, teach, or  
suggest all the limitations of Claims 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 31-33, and 35.

Raghunandan teaches a system for analyzing e-mail content based on  
selected parameters and then displaying the email as graphical images (Col. 6,  
lines 61-65; Col. 7, lines 48-50). Dyszel teaches a system to group and display  
10 Outlook items, including e-mail, via categories as a way to manage the items  
(pages 84, 85, 156, and 158).

One of ordinary skill in the art would not find a suggestion or motivation  
to combine Raghunandan with Dyszel, which include incompatible teachings.  
Raghunandan teaches identifying and organizing e-mail messages based on  
15 priority (Col. 1, lines 45-49), whereas Dyszel superficially teaches grouping e-  
mail through screen layout illustrations that help a user to find items based on  
interest (page 158). Additionally, Raghunandan teaches a system that increases in  
effectiveness as the number of parameters to identify e-mails is increased (Col. 1,  
lines 66-67; Col. 7, lines 15-35). Dyszel, however, teaches away from  
20 Raghunandan by teaching that grouping by too many categories will make using  
the list more difficult (page 85). Finally, Raghunandan teaches a system to view  
as many e-mails on screen as possible to avoid time spent selecting and scrolling  
through messages (Col. 2, lines 3-5), while Dyszel teaches a system that may  
require scrolling to view the information sought (page 156). Therefore, the  
25 Raghunandan and Dyszel references teach away from each other and should not  
be combined.

Further, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to create a reasonable  
expectation of success. Raghunandan teaches identifying or prioritizing e-mails  
based on selected parameters and displaying those parameters as graphical  
30 images. In contrast, Dyszel teaches managing e-mail messages by grouping them  
by categories, but without graphical images. In particular, Dyszel teaches



organizing e-mails by categories that can require scrolling to see information of interest (page 156). Raghunandan, though, teaches displaying *all* e-mails as graphical symbols on one screen (Col. 9, lines 9-11). Combining the teachings of Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel would thus provide e-mail organized by categories that are then displayed in graphical form based on priority, which could require scrolling to see all e-mails in the screen. However, having to scroll graphical images may lead to delay in identifying and responding to important e-mails, contrary to Raghunandan. As a result, the combination of Raghunandan and Dyszel would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the combined process should be carried out or that the combined process would have a likelihood of success.

Moreover, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to teach each and every claim limitation. Claim 8 recites a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned, a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail messages are assigned, and a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, a display for presenting the e-mail messages on a viewing area of the display, and a processor that is adapted to control the display to display each of the e-mail messages in accordance with the display specification using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail message is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed. Claim 8 defines an e-mail display operating over three-dimensions that allows multiple layers of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensioning when adapted to multiple user displays. Thus, display-specific arrangement of e-mails by category, display, and layout are possible.

In contrast, Raghunandan teaches displaying e-mail messages as graphical images. The graphical image display in Raghunandan is one-dimensional as e-

mails are grouped according to parameters parsed from the header and body of the e-mail. As more parameters are added, the system, as taught by Raghunandan, becomes more effective due to increasing the number of buttons on a screen. Adding more screens will not result in additional granularity of information  
5 displayed, but will only display even more buttons. Likewise, Dyszel teaches a one-dimensional e-mail display, in which e-mail is organized and displayed based on categories alone. Introducing greater granularity into the one-dimensional display makes the system taught by Dyszel more difficult to use. Additional user displays will not add more granularity of information displayed. Therefore,  
10 Raghunandan and Dyszel alone, and in combination, teach a one-dimensional e-mail display that does not increase in granularity with the addition of more displays, as defined in Claim 8.

Nor would modifying the teachings of Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel be predictable to one skilled in the art. Raghunandan teaches displaying e-  
15 mails as graphical images, while Dyszel teaches selection of categories and placing messages into these categories. Claim 8's three-dimensional e-mail display of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensions would not be predictable to one skilled in the art, which would require looking beyond one-dimensional e-mail displays, as taught and suggested by the  
20 Raghunandan-Dyszel combination.

Accordingly, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to teach each and every limitation and a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been shown with respect to Claim 8. Claims 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 31-33, and 35 are dependent on Claim 8 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further  
25 distinguished by the limitations stated therein. As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 8 and 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 31-33, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

### **3. Claims 16, 17, 20, 22, and 25 (Group III)**

Applicant continues to assert that the Raghunandan and Dyszel references  
30 are being improperly combined, and the combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all the limitations of Claims 16, 17, 20, 22, and 25.

Raghunandan teaches a system for analyzing e-mail content based on selected parameters and then displaying the email as graphical images (Col. 6, lines 61-65; Col. 7, lines 48-50). Dyszel teaches a system to group and display Outlook items, including e-mail, via categories as a way to manage the items  
5 (pages 84, 85, 156, and 158).

One of ordinary skill in the art would not find a suggestion or motivation to combine Raghunandan with Dyszel, which include incompatible teachings. Raghunandan teaches identifying and organizing e-mail messages based on priority (Col. 1, lines 45-49), whereas Dyszel superficially teaches grouping e-  
10 mail through screen layout illustrations that help a user to find items based on interest (page 158). Additionally, Raghunandan teaches a system that increases in effectiveness as the number of parameters to identify e-mails is increased (Col. 1, lines 66-67; Col. 7, lines 15-35). Dyszel, however, teaches away from  
Raghunandan by teaching that grouping by too many categories will make using  
15 the list more difficult (page 85). Finally, Raghunandan teaches a system to view as many e-mails on screen as possible to avoid time spent selecting and scrolling through messages (Col. 2, lines 3-5), while Dyszel teaches a system that may require scrolling to view the information sought (page 156). Therefore, the  
Raghunandan and Dyszel references teach away from each other and should not  
20 be combined.

Further, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to create a reasonable expectation of success. Raghunandan teaches identifying or prioritizing e-mails based on selected parameters and displaying those parameters as graphical  
images. In contrast, Dyszel teaches managing e-mail messages by grouping them  
25 by categories, but without graphical images. In particular, Dyszel teaches organizing e-mails by categories that can require scrolling to see information of interest (page 156). Raghunandan, though, teaches displaying *all* e-mails as graphical symbols on one screen (Col. 9, lines 9-11). Combining the teachings of  
Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel would thus provide e-mail organized  
30 by categories that are then displayed in graphical form based on priority, which could require scrolling to see all e-mails in the screen. However, having to scroll

graphical images may lead to delay in identifying and responding to important e-mails, contrary to Raghunandan. As a result, the combination of Raghunandan and Dyszel would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the combined process should be carried out or that the combined process would have a  
5 likelihood of success.

Moreover, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to teach each and every claim limitation. Claim 16 recites a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned, a  
10 plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail messages are assigned, a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, information that displays each of the e-mail  
15 messages in accordance with the display specification, using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed. Claim 16 defines an e-mail display operating over three-dimensions that allows multiple layers of category-specific, display-  
20 specific, and layout-specific dimensioning when adapted to multiple user displays. Thus, display-specific arrangement of e-mails by category, display, and layout are possible.

In contrast, Raghunandan teaches displaying e-mail messages as graphical images. The graphical image display in Raghunandan is one-dimensional as e-  
25 mails are grouped according to parameters parsed from the header and body of the e-mail. As more parameters are added, the system, as taught by Raghunandan, becomes more effective due to increasing the number of buttons on a screen. Adding more screens will not result in additional granularity of information displayed, but will only display even more buttons. Likewise, Dyszel teaches a  
30 one-dimensional e-mail display, in which e-mail is organized and displayed based on categories alone. Introducing greater granularity into the one-dimensional

display makes the system taught by Dyszel more difficult to use. Additional user displays will not add more granularity of information displayed. Therefore, Raghunandan and Dyszel alone, and in combination, teach a one-dimensional e-mail display that does not increase in granularity with the addition of more  
5 displays, as defined in Claim 16.

Nor would modifying the teachings of Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel be predictable to one skilled in the art. Raghunandan teaches displaying e-mails as graphical images, while Dyszel teaches selection of categories and placing messages into these categories. Claim 16's three-dimensional e-mail  
10 display of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensions would not be predictable to one skilled in the art, which would require looking beyond one-dimensional e-mail displays, as taught and suggested by the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination.

Accordingly, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to teach each and  
15 every limitation and a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been shown with respect to Claim 16. Claims 17, 20, 22, and 25 are dependent on Claim 16 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations stated therein. As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 16 and 17, 20, 22, and 25 under  
20 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

**B. U.S. Patent No. 6,170,011 ("Macleod Beck")**

Applicant continues to assert that the Macleod Beck, Raghunandan, and Dyszel references are being improperly combined, and the combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all the limitations of Claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 18, 19,  
25 21, 29, and 34.

The teachings of Raghunandan and Dyszel are discussed above with reference to Issue I. Macleod Beck teaches a dynamic multimedia threading system. Text-based e-mail threading is integrated with stored multimedia interactions (Col. 22, lines 45–48). The multimedia threading allows agents to  
30 access text data, such as e-mail, and cross-reference the data to recorded multimedia interactions that are displayed and played back (Col. 22, lines 10-15).

One of ordinary skill in the art would not find a motivation to modify or combine Macleod Beck with the Raghunandan-Dyszal combination. As described above, Raghunandan teaches a system for analyzing e-mail messages and prioritizing e-mail via graphical images. Dyszel teaches a system to group and display e-mail in categories. In contrast, Macleod Beck teaches integrating text-based threads with multimedia. The Raghunandan-Dyszal combination teaches displaying e-mail, but a need for integrating multimedia capabilities, as taught by Macleod Beck, is neither taught nor suggested. The examiner must show some teaching or suggestion to combine references that supports their use in combination. *See, Ashland Oil, Inc. v. Delta Resins & Refracs., Inc.*, 776 F.2d 281, 227 USPQ 657 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Such teaching or suggestion has not been shown.

Further, the Macleod Beck and Raghunandan-Dyszal combination fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Claim 3 recites e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread. Claim 10 recites e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread. Claim 18 recites e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread. In contrast, Macleod Beck teaches a threading system wherein text and multimedia are linked. The combination of Macleod Beck and Raghunandan-Dyszal results in multimedia threading and does not teach or suggest text-only threading that is static, per Claims 3, 10, and 18.

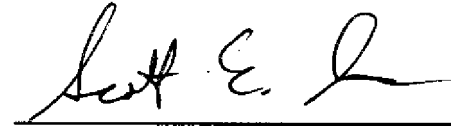
Accordingly, the Macleod Beck and Raghunandan-Dyszal combination fails to teach each and every limitation and a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been shown with respect to Claim 3, Claim 10, and Claim 18. As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3, Claim 10, and Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the pending claims and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Appellant's undersigned attorney can be reached at (206) 381-3900.

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Dated: February 29, 2008

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Reply Brief

**4. CLAIMS APPENDIX**

1           1.       (previously presented): A method for displaying an e-mail  
2 collection, the e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned  
3 to one or more categories and subcategories, the method comprising:  
4           defining a display specification to specify a manner in which e-mail  
5 messages assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be  
6 displayed in a top-level representation, comprising each of:  
7                 specifying a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail  
8 messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and  
9 subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned;  
10                specifying a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail  
11 messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which  
12 the e-mail messages are assigned; and  
13                specifying a plurality of layouts of the category-specific  
14 arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display  
15 upon which the e-mail messages are displayed; and  
16           displaying each of the e-mail messages in accordance with the display  
17 specification using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific  
18 arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail message is  
19 assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is  
20 displayed.

1           2.       (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           receiving a plurality of the display specifications from a user;  
3           storing the received display specifications;  
4           receiving a user selection of one of the plurality of stored display  
5 specifications; and  
6           displaying the e-mail collection in accordance with the user selected  
7 display specification.

1           3.       (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of



3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level  
4 display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread.

1 4. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated in the corresponding category, and  
4 that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from the  
5 corresponding category.

1 5. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, wherein at  
3 least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories is nested within  
4 another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, and wherein the  
5 nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the another  
6 of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.

1 6. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 providing an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories  
3 and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-level representation of  
4 the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of categories; and  
5 receiving and storing a user selection of one of the plurality of message  
6 display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.

1 7. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising:  
3 providing at least one tool button on the top-level representation of the e-  
4 mail collection that is adapted to receive a user command to perform an operation  
5 on one or more messages associated with an identified item; and  
6 performing the operation on the one or more messages associated with the  
7 identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

1           8.       (previously presented): A computer controlled display system for  
2 displaying an e-mail collection, the e-mail collection including a plurality of e-  
3 mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories, the system  
4 comprising:

5           a display specification defined to specify a manner in which e-mail  
6 messages assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be  
7 displayed in a top-level representation, comprising each of:

8           a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in  
9 differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories  
10 to which the e-mail messages are assigned;

11           a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in  
12 differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail  
13 messages are assigned; and

14           a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the  
15 display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-  
16 mail messages are displayed;

17           a display for presenting the e-mail messages on a viewing area of the  
18 display; and

19           a processor that is adapted to control the display to display each of the e-  
20 mail messages in accordance with the display specification using the category-  
21 specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or  
22 subcategory to which the e-mail message is assigned, and using the layout for the  
23 display upon which the e-mail message is displayed.

1           9.       (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted to:

3           receive a plurality of the display specifications from a user;

4           store the received display specifications;

5           receive a user selection of one of the plurality of stored display  
6 specifications; and

7 display the e-mail collection in accordance with the user selected display  
8 specification.

1 10. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level  
4 display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread.

1 11. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated in the corresponding category, and  
4 that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from the  
5 corresponding category.

1 12. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2 specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based definitions of  
3 categories, wherein at least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based  
4 categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based  
5 categories, and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed  
6 differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.

1 13. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted:  
3 to provide an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories  
4 and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-level representation of  
5 the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of categories; and  
6 to receive and store a user selection of one of the plurality of message  
7 display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.

1 14. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted:

3           to provide a tool button on the top-level representation of the e-mail  
4 collection that is adapted to receive a user command to delete messages associated  
5 with an identified item; and  
6           to delete the messages associated with the identified item in response to a  
7 user operation of the tool button.

1           15.   (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted:

3           to receive a user command from at least one tool button on the top-level  
4 representation of the e-mail collection; and  
5           to perform the operation on the one or more messages associated with the  
6 identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

1           16.   (previously presented): An information storage media comprising  
2 information that displays an e-mail collection, the e-mail collection including a  
3 plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and  
4 subcategories, the information comprising:

5           a display specification to specify a manner in which e-mail messages  
6 assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be displayed in a top-  
7 level representation, comprising each of:

8                   a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in  
9 differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories  
10 to which the e-mail messages are assigned;

11                   a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in  
12 differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail  
13 messages are assigned; and

14                   a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the  
15 display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-  
16 mail messages are displayed; and

17           information that displays each of the e-mail messages in accordance with  
18 the display specification using the category-specific arrangement and the display-

19 specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail message  
20 is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is  
21 displayed.

1 17. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, further comprising:  
2 information that receives a plurality of the display specifications from a  
3 user; information that stores the received display specifications;  
4 information that receives a user selection of one of the plurality of stored  
5 display specifications; and  
6 information that displays the e-mail collection, in accordance with the user  
7 selected display specification.

1 18. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level  
4 display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread.

1 19. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated in the corresponding category, and  
4 that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from the  
5 corresponding category.

1 20. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, wherein the  
2 display specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based categories,  
3 wherein at least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories is nested  
4 within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, and wherein  
5 the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the  
6 another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.

1 21. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, further comprising:

2 information that provides an editor window display which lists the  
3 plurality of categories and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-  
4 level representation of the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of  
5 categories; and

6 information that receives and stores a user selection of one of the plurality  
7 of message display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.

1 22. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, further comprising  
2 information that:

3 receives a user command via at least one tool button on the top-level  
4 representation of the e-mail collection that is adapted to receive a user command  
5 to perform an operation on one or more messages associated with an identified  
6 item; and

7 performs the operation on the one or more messages associated with the  
8 identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

1 23. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the  
2 messages within the categories and subcategories may be displayed as at least two  
3 messages, threads, and groups.

1 24. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 messages within the categories and subcategories may be displayed as at least two  
3 messages, threads, and groups.

1 25. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, wherein the  
2 wherein the messages within the categories and subcategories may be displayed  
3 as at least two messages, threads, and groups.

1 26. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that each of the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are displayed separately in the top-level display of  
4 the entire e-mail collection.

1           27.     (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2     specification provides that at least one of the plurality of categories and  
3     subcategories, and each of the messages categorized therein, is to be omitted from  
4     the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection.

1           28.     (previously presented): The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2             supplying a tool button associated with an item requesting expansion of  
3     the item; and  
4             if the expansion is requested, differentially performing the expansion of  
5     the item.

1           29.     (previously presented): The method of claim 28, further  
2     comprising expanding an item representing an entire category or subcategory on  
3     the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying a list of threads  
4     whose messages are categorized within the category or subcategory selected for  
5     expansion.

1           30.     (previously presented): The method of claim 28, further  
2     comprising expanding an item representing an individual thread on the top-level  
3     representation of the e-mail collection by displaying the messages associated with  
4     the selected thread as a single document represented by a tree-like thread structure  
5     including at least one initial part of each of the messages.

1           31.     (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2     specification provides that each of the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3     categories and subcategories are displayed separately in the top-level display of  
4     the entire e-mail collection.

1           32.     (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2     specification provides that at least one of the plurality of categories and  
3     subcategories, and each of the messages categorized therein, is to be omitted from  
4     the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection.

1           33.   (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted:  
3           to receive a user command from a tool button associated with an item  
4 requesting expansion of the item; and  
5           if the expansion is requested, to differentially perform the expansion of the  
6 item.

1           34.   (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted to expand an item representing an entire category or  
3 subcategory on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying  
4 a list of threads whose messages are categorized within the category or  
5 subcategory selected for expansion.

1           35.   (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted to expand an item representing an individual thread  
3 on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying the messages  
4 associated with the selected thread as a single document represented by a tree-like  
5 thread structure including at least one initial part of each of the messages.



**5. EVIDENCE APPENDIX**

None.

**6. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX**

None.